

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Withdrawn) A wash water-circulating apparatus for washing machines, comprising:

a circulation channel connected between one side of a tub and the other side of the tub for allowing wash water to circulate therethrough;

a pump assembly disposed on the circulation channel for forcibly circulating the wash water; and

a water level sensor disposed at the pump assembly or on the circulation channel downstream of the pump assembly for measuring the water pressure of the wash water discharged from the pump assembly.

2. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a heater assembly disposed on the circulation channel downstream of the pump assembly for heating the circulated wash water.

3. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein the water level sensor is mounted on the circulation channel between the pump assembly and the heater assembly.

4. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein the water level sensor is disposed at the heater assembly.

5. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein the water level sensor is disposed on the circulation channel downstream of the heater assembly.

6. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a drainage channel connected to the pump assembly for discharging the wash water in the tub to the outside, wherein the wash water is selectively pumped to the circulation channel or to the drainage channel by means of the pump assembly.

7. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the circulation channel has a wash water-spraying end disposed at the lower part of the tub so that the wash water is sprayed into the tub through the wash water-spraying end.

8. (Withdrawn) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the circulation channel has a wash water-spraying end disposed at the upper part of the tub so that the wash water is sprayed into the tub through the wash water-spraying end.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling wash water circulation for washing machines, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

supplying wash water into a tub;

circulating ~~re-circulating~~ wash water supplied into a tub along a circulation channel by operating a pump when wash water is supplied up to a prescribed wash water level; and

measuring the discharging pressure of the pump while the wash water is circulated; ~~re-circulated;~~ and

further supplying water into the tub and stopping the operation of the pump for a prescribed period of time if the discharging pressure of the pump is less than a prescribed pressure.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein the pump ~~is stopped for a~~ operated again after the prescribed period of time is passed ~~when the water is further supplied into the tub.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 9, further comprising measuring again the discharging pressure of the pump after the pump is operated again ~~wherein the pump is periodically stopped/operated when the water is further supplied into the tub.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein wash water is further supplied if the discharging pressure of the pump measured again is less than the prescribed pressure, and the pump is stopped again for the prescribed period of time ~~the pump stopping time is shorter than the pump operating time.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 9 11, wherein further ~~comprising the steps of measuring the discharging pressure of the pump after the water is further supplied, and stopping supply of water~~ is stopped if the discharging pressure of the pump is not less than a prescribed pressure.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 13, wherein the pump is ~~stopped for a~~ operated again after the prescribed period of time is passed ~~when the water is further supplied into the tub.~~

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim ~~15~~ 13, wherein wash water is further supplied if the discharging pressure of the pump measured again is less than the prescribed pressure, and the pump is stopped again for the prescribed period of time ~~the pump-stopping time is shorter than the pump-operating time.~~

17. (Withdrawn) A washing machine comprising:

a tub for storing wash water;

a circulation channel connected between one side of the tub and the other side of the tub for allowing the wash water to circulate into the tub therethrough so that the wash water is sprayed into the tub;

a pump assembly disposed on the circulation channel for forcibly circulating the wash water;

a water level sensor for measuring the water pressure of the wash water discharged from the pump assembly; and

control means for controlling supply of the wash water into the tub and operation of the pump assembly on the basis of the signal from the water level sensor.

18. (Withdrawn) The machine as set forth in claim 17, further comprising a drainage channel connected to the pump assembly for discharging the wash water in the tub to the outside, wherein the wash water is selectively pumped to the circulation channel or to the drainage channel by means of the pump assembly.

19. (Withdrawn) The machine as set forth in claim 17, wherein the machine is a drum washing machine with the tub disposed approximately horizontally.

20. (Withdrawn) The machine as set forth in claim 17, wherein the machine is an upright washing machine with the tub disposed approximately vertically.